# **Military Bounty Land Warrants in the United States, 1847-1900**

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Summary: Between 1847 and 1855 the Congress of the United States passed four land warrant acts which granted 60 million acres of land to veterans and their heirs. The Pension Bureau determined the eligibility of these individuals and issued military bounty land grants for up to 160 acres. Most of these land warrants were issued before 1860, but the government continued to make grants through the remainder of the 19th century. Because of these Congressional acts approximately one in nine U.S. families received a land warrant for earlier military service. Families usually sold their warrants for cash to third parties who then presented them to the General Land Office as payments for parcels of public land. Variables include the number of acres awarded to the warrant recipient, the conflict in which the veteran served, his wartime military rank, his state of residence, the public land office where the warrant was located, the year the warrant was issued, and the type of military unit in which the veteran served. Information is also provided concerning the ability of the recipient to sign his name, the relationship of the recipient to the original veteran, whether or not the grant had been sold, and, if so, the name of the buyer.

**America’s Westward Expansion**

Discussion Due:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Directions***: Based on the reading *Born Modern: An Overview of the West* and the station activity completed in class, be prepared to discuss your general observations and answers to the below two questions. Your participation in the discussion will be graded based on your argument and use of specific evidence from both the stations and White article.

1. Evaluate the role the federal government had in building/settling the West. Remember to reference specific evidence from the resources.

2. How does American expansion/settlement in the West fit within the concepts of individualism vs. collectivism?

Definition of **individualism**- In economics, it is the doctrine that individuals best serve the public interest by pursuing their own self-interest.

Definition of **collectivism-** In a collectivist system, power should be in the hands of the people as a whole, not in the hands of a few powerful folks. Collectivism is the opposite of individualism. Ideally, in a collectivist society, decisions benefit all the people.